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Numismatic Herpetology

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Abstract

Having surveyed the coins of the world minted since 1800, we report that 1539 coins contain herpetological images. More than half of these coins depict dragons or other mythological herptiles, and 58 feature extinct reptiles. The remainder illustrate extant animals or reasonable, though not taxonomically identifiable, likenesses of them. Eighty geopolitical units have issued herpetological coins and we list the number of coins minted by each. Also, a frequency distribution is presented showing the number of herpetological coins in catalogue value categories ranging from 0.00 – 1.00 to > 5000.00 (\$US).

Although it is well known that some coins contain images of amphibians or reptiles, we are aware of no publication listing the herpetological coins of any country. Numerous reports exist on herpetological stamps (especially Gordon et al., 1977; see also Balazs and Linsley, 1995; Das, 1994; Watermolen, 1995), and one describes herpetological buttons (Smith, 1967), making the absence of a herpetological coin inventory all the more conspicuous. Responding to this need, we surveyed all coins of the world minted since 1800, well over 65,000 coins, finding a total of 1539 that contain herpetological images (Krause and Mishler, 1995). We will eventually make a complete list of these coins available, together with catalogue numbers and approximate values of used and uncirculated specimens. The present paper describes general aspects of our findings and can serve as an introduction to numismatic herpetology.

One convention must be understood at the outset, and it will be introduced by example. In 1967, New Zealand minted a five-cent piece featuring tuatara. Forty-four mintings occurred between 1967 and 1985, for a total of 249,973,045 coins. Minor variations exist between mintings, and of course dates vary. Nevertheless, Krause and Mishler (1995) assign only one catalogue number (New Zealand #34) to the entire lot, and we follow this practice, regarding the series as a single instance of herpetological coinage. A redesigned five-cent piece, also featuring tuatara, appeared in 1986 and was minted 19 times through 1993, for a total of at least 130,108,000 pieces. Again, minor variations exist between mintings and dates vary, but only one catalogue number is used (New Zealand #60) by Krause and Mishler (1995), and this entire lot is treated by us as New Zealand's second herpetological coin. Hence, in what follows "a coin" refers to a design that might have been minted multiple times over multiple years, but corresponds to a single catalogue number in Krause and Mishler (1995).

Table 1 lists the countries that have issued herpetological coins, revealing that the undisputed leaders are China and Mexico, with Vietnam (Annam) in third place. Chinese coins present an interesting situation because only nine issues contain realistic herpetological images, all snakes, whereas the remaining 574 coins contain one or more dragons. We included the latter images in our count since the dragons possess reptilian

characteristics, but we recognize that some readers would eliminate these and other coins containing mythological creatures. Our decision to include them was based primarily on a desire to be complete. Thus, our total of 1539 herpetological coins contains 852 (55.4%) with mythological images (849 dragons and three sea serpents). All coins from Vietnam (Annam) fall into the dragon category, as do the coins from Bhutan, Korea, Lebanon, and most of the coins from the Isle of Man, Japan and Singapore.

Mexico presents another special case, as all but one of the Mexican herpetological coins features a rattlesnake in the grip of an eagle. This motif appeared in 1823 and has reappeared at least 392 times since then, with variations in the orientation of the eagle and in the position of the snake.

The most valuable herpetological coin is a two-yen gold piece from Japan (1874–1892; Krause and Mishler Catalogue number 10a), worth approximately \$75,000 if the coin is in uncirculated condition. Table 2 presents frequency distributions of coin values, where it can be seen that the modal herpetological coin is worth between \$100.01 and \$1,000.00, largely because oriental coins featuring dragons have a long minting history. Hence, many of these coins are old, rare and valuable. Nevertheless, the majority of herpetological coins can be purchased for less than \$100.00, and over 200 can be had for \$10.00 or less. Consequently, it may be concluded that a substantial collection can be accumulated at affordable prices.

While dragons dominate our list, it is instructive to consider the frequencies of other herpetological images featured on coins (see Table 3). Whereas dinosaurs occur on a substantial number of coins, no ancient amphibian appears on any coin, even though many spectacular forms are known from Carboniferous, Permian and Triassic deposits. Furthermore, extant amphibians do not fare well in numismatics, with only four coins featuring them. We hope that the worldwide decline in amphibians inspires some countries to recognize these animals as worthy subjects for coins. Such actions might help to call public attention to the problem.

Without question, many extant amphibians and reptiles are best illustrated in a medium that permits multiple colors. Likely this is why both of these classes of vertebrates are more frequently seen on stamps than on coins. Nevertheless, it is

Table 1. Number of herpetological coins issued by 80 countries or other geopolitical units since 1800.

Country	Number of Coins	Country	Number of Coins
Afganistan	1	Kiribati	1
Alderney	3	Korea	31
Argentina	2	Korea-North	1
Australia	2	Korea-South	8
Belgium	8	Laos	4
Benin (Dahomey)	2	Lebanon	6
Bermuda	3	Lesotho	32
Bhutan	28	Liberia	17
Bolivia	14	Macao	3
Bosnia-Herzegovina	6	Malaysia	3
Brazil	1	Maldives Islands	1
British Virgin Islands	6	Mexico	281
Cambodia	3	Mexico (local coinage)	113
Cayman Islands	7	Mongolia	1
China (Peoples Republic)	83	New Zealand	2
China (provincial coinage)	500	Pakistan	1
Congo Peoples Republic	3	Panama	1
Cook Islands	1	Papua New Guinea	2
Costa Rica	4	Philippines	15
Cuba	16	Russia	2
Danish West Indies	5	St. Helena	2
Egypt	8	Ascension Island	3
Eritrea	9	St. Helena-Ascension	1
Estonia	1	St. Thomas & Prince Islands	2
Fiji	10	Seychelles	10
Gambia	5	Singapore	7
Germany (Democratic Republic)	1	Slovenia	1
Gibraltar	6	Solomon Islands	6
Great Britain	2	Somalia	3
Guinea	4	Spain	1
Guinea-Bissau	2	Spain (local coinage)	1
Guyana	1	Switzerland	2
Hong Kong	2	Thailand	1
Hungary	2	Tonga	4
Iceland	2	Turks & Caicos Islands	4
Indonesia	2	Tuvalu	1
Isle of Man	73	Vatican City	2
Israel	3	Vietnam-Annam	93
Jamaica	6	South Vietnam	5
Japan	27	Western Samoa	1

Table 2. Distribution of approximate values (\$US) of herpetological coins minted since 1800. Values are for uncirculated specimens or for coins in the best condition known to be available. Poorer quality specimens would command considerably lower values.

	Value in US\$							
	0.00 – 1.00	1.01 – 10.00	10.01 – 25.00	25.01 – 50.00	50.01 – 100.00	100.01 – 1000.00	1000.01 – 5000.00	> 5000.00
Number of coins	51	193	221	245	156	520	101	52
Percent of coins	3.3	12.5	14.4	15.9	10.1	33.8	6.6	3.4

Note: Catalogue values are scholarly approximations, not exact prices. Moreover, another important qualification must be kept in mind owing to the fact that we lumped dates of issue and mint marks using the same herpetological design. For example, the Republic of Mexico issued a silver coin (8 reales) bearing the usual rattlesnake in the grip of an eagle. This coin was minted in 14 locations between 1824 and 1897 (KM #377-377.13). An 1897 coin from this series mint marked Mo (Mexico City) and bearing the assayer initials AM is valued at \$45.00 in uncirculated condition; but, an 1833 coin from the same mint bearing the assayer initials ML is valued at \$2000.00. Our practice was to select as our “type specimen” the least expensive item in the series, so KM #377 is included in our list with a value of \$45.00. An analytically-minded reader is, therefore, advised to consult a detailed catalogue such as Krause and Mishler (1995) to see each variation in the series listed separately.

clear from the beautiful coins on our list that herpetozoa can be well represented on coins, with the usual monochromatic nature of coins detracting but little from the images. Therefore, we conclude that the relatively low frequency of coins featuring extant herptiles, especially amphibians, is not due entirely to limitations of the medium, but rather to lack of social-political pressure upon the decision makers responsible for selecting subjects to be represented on coins. Our message to those interested in numismatic herpetology is to bring appropriate, constructive suggestions to the attention of these authorities. Philatelic pressure groups exist and they have been quite successful in generating desired images on stamps. There is no reason why herpetologists cannot exert similar pressures within philatelic and numismatic channels.

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Table 3. Number of coins minted since 1800 featuring various herpetological taxa.

Taxa	Number of Coins
<u>Amphibians</u>	
Frogs	3
Salamanders	1
<u>Reptiles</u>	
Dinosaurs	58
Dragons	849
Sea Serpents	3
Crocodilians	62
Turtles	64
Tuatara	2
Lizards	14
Snakes	483

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Larval Period and Reproductive Biology of *Eurycea cirrigera* from Pope County, Illinois

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Abstract

I studied the larval period and reproductive biology of *Eurycea cirrigera* at a woodland stream in Pope County, southern Illinois. Although larvae with yolk remnants were not collected, hatching occurred in June at a snout-vent length (SVL) of 9-13 mm. The larval period was 13-14 months with metamorphosis occurring during June and July at 27-29 mm SVL; the smallest transformed individuals were 28-29 mm. The mean monthly larval growth rate was 1.55 mm, with some growth during winter. Egg deposition occurred in late April and May with females maturing at 31 mm SVL and males maturing at 30 mm SVL. The ratio of males to females was 1.86:1. The larval period described here agrees with Smith (1961).

Introduction

Studies on the larval period of the *Eurycea bislineata* species complex have been numerous, although not in Illinois. Wilder (1924), Duellman and Wood (1954), and Bruce (1982a, b; 1985; 1988) have all reported hatching and metamorphic times, and the resultant larval periods, for species in this group. In Illinois, Smith (1961) collected eggs in May and reported that larvae hatch in about a month, and metamorphosis occurs slightly more than a year later.

I examined the larval period (1976-1977) for one population of the *E. bislineata* species complex in Pope County, Illinois. Jacobs (1987) elevated all three subspecies (*bislineata*, *wilderae* and *cirrigera*) of *Eurycea bislineata* to specific status based upon allozyme data. Southern Illinois populations were not represented in his genetic analysis; hence the Pope County population can only tentatively be assigned to *E. cirrigera*. Although *E. cirrigera* can be common in streams and seepage areas of southeastern Illinois (Smith, 1961), little is known about its biology.

Mierzwa (1989) described the habitat and discussed factors limiting the distribution of *E. cirrigera* in Illinois and Indiana. Here I report on the larval period and reproductive biology of one Pope County, Illinois, population and draw comparisons with populations of the *E. bislineata* complex from other parts of the range.

Materials and Methods

The study site is a woodland stream 11 km north of Glen-dale, Pope County, Illinois (McDowell, 1989). The only other species of larval salamander present at the site is *E. longicauda*. The stream is one to two meters wide and up to 0.5 m deep; and it is fed by a spring at the base of a rock face. During the summer the stream dried up, forming small pools which then filled with leaf litter during the fall. The larval period of *E. longicauda* at this site is reported by McDowell (1989).

Larvae and metamorphosed *E. cirrigera* were sampled

monthly from August 1976 to July 1977 (Table 1). Additional samples of metamorphosed animals (N = 17) were taken in 1978 (May) and 1982 (February through April). Larvae were collected with a small dip net from beneath rocks, leaves, and twigs within the main part of the stream and along tributaries, while metamorphosed animals were collected by hand from beneath rocks at the stream margin. Salamanders were pre-served on the day of collection in buffered 10% formalin. Snout-vent length (SVL) was measured to the nearest millimeter with a metric ruler and recorded after specimens had been preserved for at least six months. Mean SVL ($\pm$ 1 S.E.) and range were calculated for each monthly sample. Metamor-phosed salamanders were dissected to determine sexual matu-rity and oviposition period. Larval collections (N = 209) and metamorphosed animals (N = 85) were deposited with the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS). I determined monthly size distributions of SVL and estimated the mean monthly growth rate for larvae. Student's *t*-test was used to test the hypothesis that two different larval year classes were present in the June and July samples. Monthly larval samples (different year cohorts) are assumed as if no yearly variation in the larval period was present.

Table 1. Samples of larvae from a Pope County, Illinois, population of *Eurycea cirrigera* during 1976-1977.

Date	N	Snout-vent length		
		Range	$\bar{x}$	S.E.
5 August	23	11-19	15.3	2.7
4 September	37	11-20	14.7	2.7
2 October	24	15-21	17.6	2.1
21 November	23	14-21	17.7	1.9
19 March	26	16-27	21.9	2.7
23 April	24	17-28	24.3	2.6
15 May	15	22-30	25.5	2.3
12 June	21	9-29	22.1	25.1
19 July	16	10-28	19.3	13.4

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All small larvae were checked for the presence of yolk and limb bud remnants to determine recent hatchlings, while larger larvae were checked for gill resorption and a decrease in size of the caudal tail fin to determine metamorphs.

Results

A total of 209 larvae was collected over the 12-month sampling period (Figure 1). Larvae were not collected from December through February (although attempts were made to do so), because the stream was frozen. Only two monthly samples (June and July) were bimodal in body length; all others were unimodal. A one-tailed Student's *t*-test confirmed a significant difference in body size between both June ($t = 22.55$, $df = 19$, $P \ll 0.01$) and July ($t = 10.75$, $df = 14$, $P \ll 0.01$) larval year classes. Small larvae (9–13 mm SVL) in the June and July samples represent the beginning of a new larval cohort. Smallest larvae collected in the April and May samples ($\bar{x}$ SVL = 24.3 and 25.3 mm respectively) were much larger than the new larval cohort found in the June and July samples (Table 1). First year larvae grew rapidly in summer and autumn, and by November reached a mean SVL of 17.7 mm.

Large larvae (27–29 mm SVL) collected during June and July had reduced tail fins and partially resorbed gills. Only five larvae 17 mm SVL or larger were collected in July and the second year larvae present in the June and July samples totally disappeared by August. The size of the smallest transformed *E. cirrigera* collected (28–29 mm SVL, $N = 7$) agrees with the metamorph SVL (27–29 mm). Large larvae collected in the May sample (28–30 mm SVL, $N = 3$) were not in metamorphic condition. Although larvae could not be collected during the winter months (December through February), mean monthly SVLs increased by 4.19 mm from November (17.7 mm) to March (21.9 mm), suggesting that growth occurs during winter. Mean monthly growth for the entire larval period (13–14 months) was 1.55 mm. The growth rate of larvae fits the regression line $Y = 9.726 + 1.638x$ ($r^2 = 0.65$, $P < 0.01$) with rapid growth until May–July (second year larvae only) when larvae began metamorphosis.

No egg clutches were found, but oviposition occurred during late April and May, as females with large yolked ova were collected in early April and newly hatched larvae were present only during June and July. In addition, all females (33–37 mm SVL) collected in late April, May and June were without yolked ova and had thin, moderately convoluted oviducts. Females ≥ 31 mm SVL ($N = 33$) were sexually mature, with yolked ova. Male sexual maturity, determined by coloration (brown) and coiling of the vas deferens, was at 30–31 mm SVL ($N = 52$).

Discussion

Length of the larval period of *E. cirrigera* in Pope County, Illinois (13–14 months) differs considerably from some populations of the *Eurycea bislineata* complex, but is similar to others. Wilder (1924), working in western Massachusetts, examined 2400 larvae and determined the larval period of *E. bislineata* to be 2–3 years. Duellman and Wood (1954), in southwestern Ohio, found larval hatchlings in late June and

estimated the larval period of *E. cirrigera* (*E. bislineata rivicola*) to be two years, with a small number of larvae metamorphosing in one year. Trapido and Clausen (1940) postulated that in Canada *E. bislineata* (*E. b. major*) metamorphosed during their third year. In Illinois Smith (1961) determined the larval period to be somewhat more than one year, while in Kentucky Petranks (1984) also found the larval period to be about one year, with larvae hatching in early June, and metamorphosis in late May to mid-June. Minton (1972) in Indiana determined a larval period of at least a year.

The larval period of *E. cirrigera* in Pope County is also like that of more southern populations of the *E. bislineata* complex. Bruce (1982a) studied *E. wilderae* (*E. b. bislineata*) populations in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, and reported one-year larval periods with greater growth and metamorphic size in a pond versus a stream habitat. Larvae in the pond population metamorphosed at 24–29 mm SVL during April and May, whereas those in the stream population transformed at 17–20 mm SVL during April–June. However, Bruce (1982a, b) found annual variation in these traits at several streams in western North Carolina. At another site in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Bruce (1985) found *E. wilderae* to have a larval period of one to two years with metamorphosis during May–July at 23–33 mm SVL. Bruce (1988) also found the larval period of *E. wilderae* at yet another Blue Ridge Mountain site to be one to two years, with metamorphosis from late May to early August at 18–24 mm SVL. Bruce

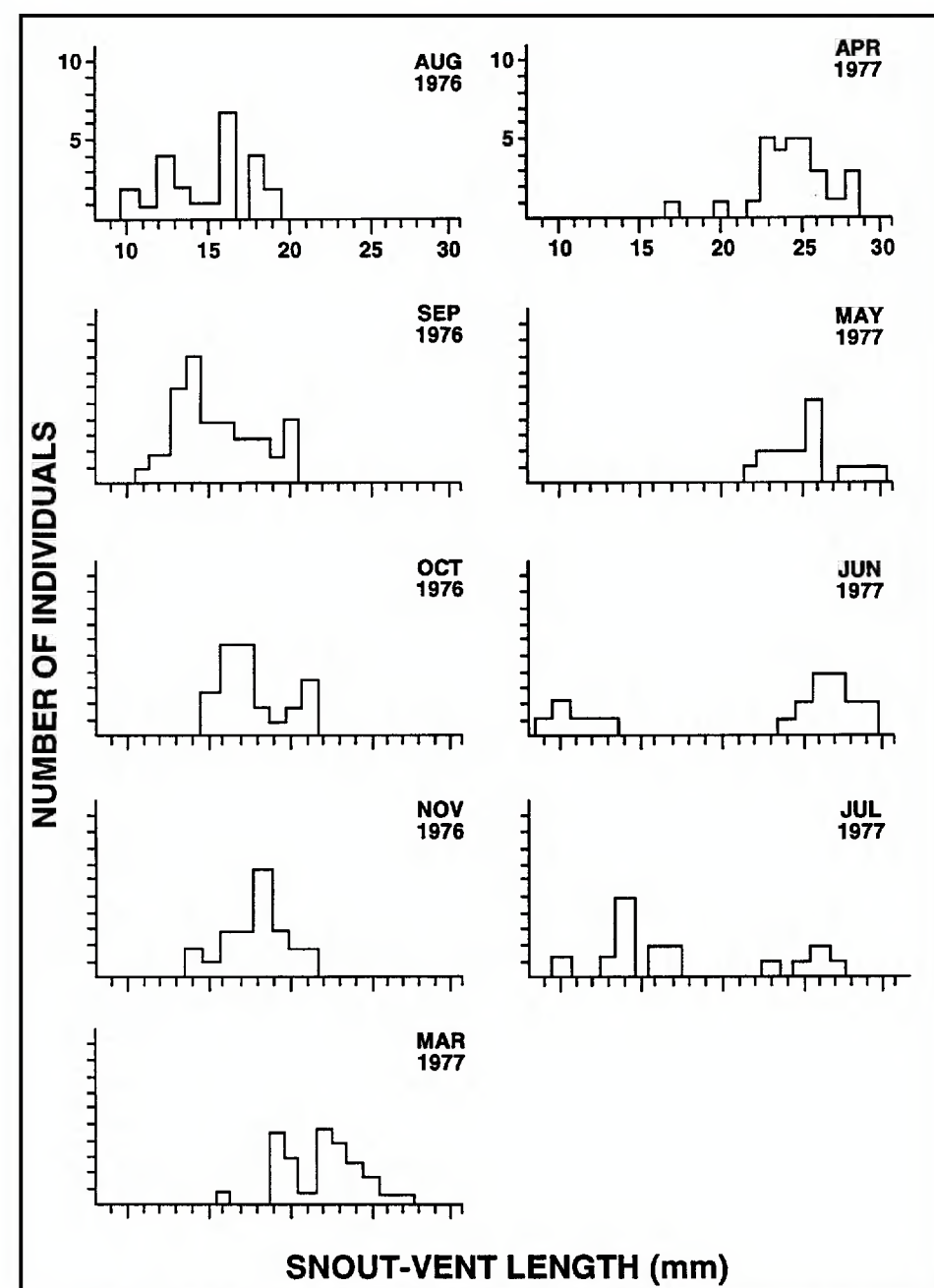


Figure 1. Monthly snout-vent length distributions for larval *Eurycea cirrigera* from Pope County, Illinois.

(1982a; 1985; 1988) determined that *E. wilderae* oviposit in spring or early summer, as occurred in my study population.

The SVLs of the smallest *E. cirrigera* larvae found in the Pope County population (9–13 mm) are similar to those of newly hatched larvae of other members of the *E. bislineata* complex. Duellman and Wood (1954) found larval hatchlings slightly less than 9 mm SVL, while Bruce (1982a, b; 1985; 1988) determined larval hatchling SVLs to be 8–13 mm. Metamorphic sizes of Pope County *E. cirrigera* (27–29 mm) fall within the metamorphic range reported by Duellman and Wood (1954) and Bruce (1982a; 1985).

Females of Pope County *E. cirrigera* apparently oviposit from late April through May as newly hatched larvae 9–13 mm SVL were collected only in June and July and all adult female *E. cirrigera* (N = 8) with large ovarian eggs were collected from February through April. Adult females collected in May and June had recently oviposited. Smith (1961) found oviposited eggs during May in southern Illinois, while Baumann

and Huels (1982) found several egg clutches during May in southeastern Ohio. Minton (1972) also found clutches during May in Indiana, while Wood and Duellman (1951) found female *E. bislineata* with large yolked eggs in mid-April. In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina Bruce (1982a) determined that eggs hatch during April. Oviposition times were similar between my *E. cirrigera* study population and other members of the *E. bislineata* complex.

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For assistance in the field I want to thank Todd Boatright, Lisa Ann Sager (Weaver), and especially Hiroko Ohtsu who helped make my studies on the salamander genus *Eurycea* possible. For critically reviewing the manuscript I thank Joseph Beatty, Richard C. Bruce, four anonymous reviewers, and especially Ronald A. Brandon, who suggested my studies on *Eurycea*. Samuel S. Sweet was also helpful in many ways. The Research Photography and Illustration Facility, SIU–Carbondale, should also be acknowledged.

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HerPET-POURRI

by Ellin Beltz

Back again!

See, I wasn't kidding. It was only a one month hiatus caused by my presentation of research at the Geological Society of America Meeting and the defense of my M.S. thesis. Both events occurred in a two-week span. Thanks to Lori King-Nava and Marty Marcus for their warm wishes on my defense and to all CHS members for their patience, most particularly our editor. Happy holidays to all CHS members and most particularly to Captain Wes von Papineau who was, when last heard from, being sent to Bosnia as part of the Canadian peacekeeping force.

Read my toxic lips, no more salamanders

The son of former president Bush, George W. Bush, is currently governor of Texas. He went on record in the *Austin-American Statesman* (July 26) as "Bush opposes salamander protection." This article generated a response by five scientists: two zoologists, two hydrologists and an engineer. They wrote: "The evidence is clear: The [Barton Springs] salamander is endangered and needs further protection. . . . [It] is our 'canary in the coal mine,' and there are clear signs that both the salamander and Barton Springs are at great risk. . . . The salamander has no escape from the decline in water quality caused by increasing urbanization. . . . Human-made toxins have been found in Barton Springs. . . . These chemicals do not occur naturally in the Edwards Aquifer . . . [which] is experiencing unprecedented siltation. Just three miles from Barton Springs, wells are showing dramatic increases in siltation. Some wells have filled with more than 100 feet of sediment, burning out pumps and causing previously clean water to run milky-white. . . . Sediments [found at the Springs] bury the rock cobble habitat in which the salamander lives. . . . The scientific evidence is clear that the salamander is endangered, yet Bush has reached the opposite conclusion. The governor relied on a recent recommendation by the Texas Natural Resource and Conservation Commission that the salamander not be listed due to 'no demonstrated material decline in the water quality of Barton Springs.' This remarkable finding ignores the siltation and presence of toxic metals and organic chemicals in Barton Springs and the aquifer, problems which are in fact described in one of the TNRCC's own reports. . . . Protection of the springs for the salamander is also protection of the springs for people." [*Austin-American Statesman*, August 17, 1995, from William B. Montgomery]

The wild, wild west

In May, five commissioners of Nye County, Nevada, wrote to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and told that agency's state supervisor to stay off state lands in their county. The letter was dated May 2 and reads in part: "Nye County does not consider the Endangered Species Act to be a valid law because the federal government does not have the constitutionally granted authority to pass such laws. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not have the jurisdiction or authority to come onto lands owned by the state of Nevada or private lands to Enforce the ESA. You have not been invited by this Board to

come into Nye County to continue study and evaluation of the Amargosa Toad." Fish and Wildlife Service responded in writing: "The service can indeed enforce the ESA on state or private lands. To the extent that you are implying that federal public lands actually belong to the state, you are incorrect. No court anywhere, has ever held the ESA to be constitutionally invalid. . . . An invitation does not have to be extended in order for the Fish and Wildlife Service to carry out its congressional mandate." [*Albuquerque Journal*, June 16, 1995, from J. N. Stuart] I guess the federal precedent is the IRS, which doesn't seem to need any invitation at all to crawl into our paychecks!

New cause suggested for amphibian decline

Researchers in Queensland, Australia, have suggested that a foreign virus may have wiped out 14 species of frogs in north-eastern Australian rainforests over the last 15 years. The virus is a highly virulent pathogen spread by the trade in ornamental fish. The Bohle iridovirus has so far only been isolated from one species of frog, the ornate burrowing frog (*Limnodynastes ornatus*), but a virologist at the Australian Animal Health Lab in Geelong, New South Wales, said it was far too early to tell if the virus was the sole cause of any declines. Frogs in Australian declining populations have several factors in common: they live in upland streams in an area of about 1500 kilometers long, and the victims are usually the adults and juveniles rather than eggs or tadpoles. The same species dying in the uplands may survive in warmer lowland areas. Fish implicated in the spread of disease include guppies and carp. In addition, it is found in dwarf gourami and other ornamental fishes. [*New Scientist*, January 7, 1995, from K & W Herp Haven]

Commas of hope

A Texas blind salamander laid 37 eggs last July 12. Of the 37, 18 have hatched, leaving biologists at Aquarena Springs as excited as any new human parents. "The 18 salamander eggs— which resemble apple seed-sized white commas doing somersaults inside a clear yolk sac—are delighting visitors. . . . 'This is neat,' [said one] 'I've never seen a salamander hatching.' [Captive reproduction] 'bodes well for the salamander,' said [the director]. 'The more we know about the reproductive process and how they function, the more we can make sure they continue.' [He added] much is unknown about salamander reproduction, since they live inside the Edwards Aquifer." [*Austin-American Statesman*, July 28, 1995, from William B. Montgomery]

Sonoran salamander proposed for listing

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service solicited comments on a proposal to add the Sonoran tiger salamander to the list of endangered species. A representative of the Arizona Cattlemen's Association said, "The intent of the law has been subverted so badly, they are not doing this for the sake of the species but to control an area." The salamanders currently breed in manmade livestock watering ponds. A biologist with the service said that listing would not prevent cattle from using

the ponds, but might limit off-road vehicle use in stream beds and other places. [*Daily Lobo*, University of New Mexico campus newspaper, April 14, 1995, from J. N. Stuart] The habitat at risk here is called a “cienega.” Cienegas are marshes found at elevations of three to five thousand feet in high grasslands. Cienegas act as filters for groundwater and are at risk from upland erosion, flooding, water diversion schemes, and groundwater pumping. [*Arizona Republic*, April 29, 1995, from Tom Taylor]

Chinese herp tales

- A 1.42-meter long, 35.8-kilo giant salamander (*Andrias davidianus*) has been living in the Hanzhong Hotel in Shaanxi Province for ten years. A hotel worker bought it the market a decade ago and has kept it as a pet ever since. All giant salamanders are listed by the State as protected animals. [*China Daily*, July 6, 1995, from P. L. Beltz] Incidentally, the WordPerfect 6.0 spellchecker suggests “entrees” for *Andrias*. Were the programmers Chinese or what?
- Three workers in Tianjin captured a 1.2-meter, 11.5-kilo giant salamander at a water control station on the banks of Qinglongwan River in Baodi County. The salamander was sent to a local wild animal protection department. It is considered rare to find giant salamanders this far north in China, according to the report in *China Daily*. [July 13, 1995, from P. L. Beltz]
- Two Chinese women just broke a Guinness Book of World Records record on the longest time spent with the most snakes in a single room. Quian Linping and Ni Junfang from Zhejiang Province stayed with 666 cobras and 222 nonvenomous snakes in a 30-square-meter room for 288 hours. This breaks the previous record of two Malaysian men who stayed with 200 venomous snakes for 10 days (240 hours). [*China Daily*, November 14, 1995, from P. L. Beltz]
- *The Wall Street Journal* reports that “crowds of affluent Chinese have journeyed by car and bus . . . to see the P. T. Barnum of the serpent world. His roadshow has become a roadside attraction. [The showman] Mr. Qian leads a troop of tourists into a snake filled grotto, then claps his hands. Two boys, each with scars from snake bites, come down a water slide with heaps of writhing snakes. . . . Mr. Qian laughs ‘Snakes are our friends.’ . . . [The] Flying Dragon World Fun City . . . is one of thousands of attractions sprouting along China’s thoroughfares. In a way, the rise of the roadside attraction in China recalls the giant concrete prairie dogs and alligator farms that dotted U.S. highways in the rambling 1950s.” [September 6, 1995, from K. S. Mierzwa]
- Russian border guards captured and kept 10 Chinese poachers along the Russian/Chinese border in the far east. They seized dozens of explosive charges which the poachers had intended to use to catch fish. Last month, a Russian border guard was killed in a shootout with Chinese frog poachers. [Houma, *LA Courier*, May 5, 1995, from Ernie Liner]

Ernie corners the market on sea turtle stories

- Kemp’s ridley nests have been found near Corpus Christi,

Texas. “One of the things that makes this so exciting is that during all of 1994, there was only one confirmed Kemp’s ridley nest found on the entire Texas coast, and there was another confirmed nest in 1991. To have three nests within two days is exciting . . . and we’re not done with the Kemp’s ridley nesting period,” said a research biologist stationed on the Padre Island National Seashore. The 231 eggs are being incubated at a special facility. On hatching, the babies will be released at their original nest sites. [Houma, *LA Courier*, June 2, 1995; Knoxville *News-Sentinel* August 7, 1995, both from Ernie Liner]

- Senator John Breaux (D-LA) wants to start sea turtle farms in an effort to stop conflicts between shrimpers and environmentalists. He points to the success of alligator farming but acknowledges that since turtles take longer than gators to mature, the program will need to be more long term. “If we can raise more sea turtles in captivity, we can take them off the endangered species list, and help Louisiana shrimpers increase their catch and reduce their operating costs,” he said. The Senator plans to take a fact-finding mission to the Cayman Islands to study their turtle farms. [*Times Picayune*, June 14 and 16, 1995, from Ernie Liner]
- Reaction to Breaux’s proposal was fast and negative. The Center for Marine Conservation criticized his proposal because it might “raise false hopes among shrimpers.” The points raised in the letter include: that turtle farming is an unproven method for increasing turtle populations; that headstarting is still experimental and few data exist on survival of captive-reared offspring; that the Cayman Islands turtle farms went bankrupt in 1983 and are now subsidized by the British government; that relaxing turtle excluder device requirements would result in catching more turtles—whether wild-bred or captive-reared turtles would at that point be moot. The letter said, “Proclaiming captive breeding as a panacea for shrimpers and sea turtles is premature at best.” According to the article in the *Times Picayune*, shrimpers object to TEDs because they are required “to use balky equipment when they often don’t see a sea turtle for months or years. They say the devices cause them to lose fish and tangle their nets.” [May 24, 1995, from Ernie Liner] Curiously, they’re complaining about losing fish. I thought they were fishing for shrimp?
- Three guys busted in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, were found in possession of 371 loggerhead sea turtle eggs. The three, all of Boynton Beach, Florida, were arrested and charged with the misdemeanor of possessing sea turtle eggs. One was also charged with possession of a crack cocaine pipe. One of the men, James Bivens, is “an old hand at stealing sea turtle eggs, authorities said.” In 1990, a Palm Beach County judge fined him \$109,300 for taking 1,088 sea turtle eggs from a State Park on Singer Island. The fine was never paid since a federal appeals court ruled the fine was over the legal limit. The egg thief has been arrested 32 times; the charges include burglary, armed robbery and drug possession, according to the *Times Picayune*. Possession of sea turtle eggs is a violation of the federal Endangered Species Act with fines up to \$200,000 and jail terms of up to six months. However, there is still a thriving black market for sea turtle eggs. Some take the eggs as

reported aphrodisiacs, others to bake pies, pastries and other “exotic animal” foods. [*Times Picayune*, June 1, 1995, from Ernie Liner]

- Environmental groups sued the National Marine Fisheries Service in July. They claimed the agency is allowing too many threatened and endangered sea turtles to drown in shrimp nets. The suit was filed by Earth Island Institute, HEART, and the Humane Society of the United States and is represented by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund among others. [*Times Picayune*, July 7, 1995, from Ernie Liner]
- Hurricane Erin damaged human homes along the Florida Panhandle, but it also caused damage to wildlife and habitat. Baby turtles washed up on beaches while volunteers tried moving nests damaged by the storm. The hurricane slammed part of the state’s prime nesting corridor, the six-county region from Broward to Brevard counties. The storm arrived just as the first waves of hatchlings were emerging. Pounding surf exposed some nests, swallowed and flooded others or—paradoxically—covered nests with thick layers of sand. [*Times Picayune*, August 10, 1995, from Ernie Liner]

A great use for a pink flamingo

Keepers at Minnesota Zoo were tearing out their hair. Maureen, their Komodo dragon, simply refused to feast on white rats and other delectables presented daily at her cage. But they really would have preferred if what happened didn’t happen even though they are happy she finally ate something. What she ate was a pink flamingo that made the mistake of landing in her cage. A few feathers and part of a leg were all that remained of the bird. A keeper said, “Normally [the flamingos] don’t fly out of the exhibit. Once or twice a year, one will fly out and we know it’s time to clip their feathers again. They’ve never become dinner before.” [*Chicago Tribune* September 13, 1995, from Claus Sutor] Maybe Maureen was just having early exotic Thanksgiving? Meanwhile, Miami’s Metrozoo just acquired a 6-year-old Komodo couple, both longer than six feet and over 200 pounds. Keepers plan to feed them 50 pounds of rats, rabbits and horsemeat every few days. Their dietary preference for pink flamingos was not discussed in the June 16, 1995, issue of the *Orlando Sentinel*. [from Bill Burnett]

Gila remember next time

U.S. Customs agents caught a driver with 10 venomous Gila monsters knotted up in socks in the trunk of a car stopped for inspection. The driver of the car is reported to live in San Diego. He said he paid \$40 for each lizard in Mexico and planned to sell them in the U.S. for about \$500 apiece. A buyer was waiting for the shipment said the driver. The lizards were turned over to U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents for release or repatriation after the trial. [*Phoenix Gazette*, August 3, 1995, from Tom Taylor; and *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, August 4, from Bob Pierson]

Iguana be loved by you

The Wall Street Journal reports “The number of iguanas brought into the U.S. for sale surged to 530,000 last year from just 28,000 in 1986, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service. Mary Hussaker, co-owner of the East Bay Vivarium, a pet shop in Berkeley, California, says iguana enthusiasts are buying the scaly reptiles as fast as they arrive. She expects to sell around 400 iguanas this year, quadruple her iguana sales a decade ago. . . . Most end up several feet long. . . . More alarming, iguanas are the main suspects in recent outbreaks of salmonella related diseases, ranging from mild diarrhea to meningitis. . . . Iguanas are this country’s pet du jour. . . . The movie Jurassic Park may have spurred the iguana craze. . . . [The] owner of LA Reptile, a Los Angeles importer says her company is importing nearly 100,000 baby iguanas this year, mostly from El Salvador, where they are hatched and reared on reptile farms. . . . They fetch up to \$20 [in U.S. pet shops]. . . . Most of them will end up with city dwellers [as apartment pets].” [July 17, 1995, from Lori King-Nava]

Photo op

Herpetologically minded visitors to Chicago’s refurbished Navy Pier may wish to have their photos taken on the merry-go-round which features hand-painted animal figures including a frog. Three minutes of centrifugal force costs \$1.50 for adults, \$1.00 for kids. [*Chicago Sun-Times*, May 15, 1995, from Steve Ragsdale] The carousel will reopen after Chicago’s notoriously nasty winter is over.

Animal movers

The *Memphis Business Journal* reports that KLM Cargo has become a major player in the animal shipping business, reportedly the largest handler of air shipments of live animals in the world. “The reptile room was mostly empty when we stopped by, with the exception of a small, brightly striped snake that apparently slithered out of an earlier shipment during a government inspection. KLM employees were looking for one of the animal hotel’s three veterinarians to determine whether it was poisonous or not. . . . Boxes of pythons going from Togo to Los Angeles thankfully were sturdier. . . . Each of the 19 snakes had its own box, even though they appeared bound for the same destination.” [June 26-30, 1995, from Bill Burnett]

Thanks to all the contributors who made this column as much fun to write as I hope it is for you to read! Also big thanks to J. N. Stuart, Mark T. Witwer, Ray Boldt, Bill Burnett, J. H. Schoenfelder, Steve Ragsdale, Ernie Liner, Bob Pierson, Dee Fick, P. L. Beltz, Lori King-Nava, Bill Burnett’s mom, and David E. Johnson for their contributions. You can contribute, too. Send newspaper pages or clipping/date slug with your name on every page to: Ellin Beltz, 1647 N. Clybourn Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-5507. Please use tape. Please keep folding to a minimum and use clear tape, NO STAPLES! My family is complaining that the dining room carpet is like a cactus farm! Letters only to my e-mail <uebeltz@uxa.ecn.bgu.edu> .

Herpetology 1995

In this column the editorial staff presents short abstracts of herpetological articles we have found of interest. This is not an attempt to summarize all of the research papers being published; it is an attempt to increase the reader's awareness of what herpetologists have been doing and publishing. The editors assume full responsibility for any errors or misleading statements. JCM

TEMPORARY PONDS, WOOD FROGS, SYNCHRONIZED BREEDING AND CANNIBALISM

J. W. Petranka and D. A. G. Thomas [1995, Animal Behavior 50:731-739] note that cannibalism of frog eggs and hatchlings by larger tadpoles has been documented in many species that inhabit seasonally ephemeral habitats and that such cannibalism has been hypothesized to play an important role in favoring synchronized breeding. Using the wood frog, *Rana sylvatica*, this hypothesis was tested by determining whether offspring of nonsynchronized breeders were more vulnerable to cannibalism than offspring of synchronized breeders. In a laboratory experiment, small tadpoles of similar size did not cannibalize each other. However, large tadpoles preyed heavily on the eggs and hatchlings of conspecifics, and the incidence of predation increased with cannibal size. In natural populations, over 80% of adults breed explosively during a 3-day period, and their offspring are not cannibalized because hatching is synchronized and tadpoles vary only slightly in size. About 5% of adults oviposit late in the breeding season, and the resulting embryos hatch when tadpoles of synchronized breeders average 0.6–1.3 g. Larger tadpoles in the ponds cannibalize the eggs and hatchlings of these late breeders. In a field experiment conducted at a natural breeding site, eggs that were added seven days after embryos of late breeders hatched suffered complete mortality within 19 hours. Similarly, more than half of the hatchlings were cannibalized within 15 minutes after they were placed in the pond. These results are consistent with the view that synchronized breeding is an adaptation that reduces cannibalism in anurans that breed in temporary ponds.

NATAL HOMING IN GREEN TURTLES AND mtDNA

M. W. Allard et al. [1994, Copeia (1):34-41] examined mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) sequences of the control region from the Costa Rica and Florida colonies of the green turtle, *Chelonia mydas*, to test the hypothesis that gravid females return to their natal beaches to lay their eggs. Analyses of intra- and intergroup variation of these sequences revealed that the two colonies are structured differently along maternal lineages and that mtDNA diversity is unusually high in the Florida population. The former result supports the hypothesis of natal homing in green turtles. For the latter, two explanations are provided: (a) the Florida colony is the product of immigration from multiple sources; or (2) that it is a remnant of a larger, ancestral population. The presence or absence of Florida haplotypes among other western Atlantic populations will provide a critical test of these alternative hypotheses.

A NEW SCINAX FROM SOUTHEASTERN BRAZIL

J. P. Pombal, Jr., et al. [1995, J. Herpetology 29(1):1-6] describe a new species of treefrog, *Scinax perereca*, from the southern São Paulo, Atlantic Forest area, of southeastern Brazil. The new species is a member of the *Scinax rubra* group. Males were found calling throughout the year in open areas and forest edges, near permanent ponds. They perched on vegetation 25–100 cm above ground with their heads directed upwards. Most calling occurred from sunset to about four hours later. This new species was observed to shelter in human habitations at the type locality, Fazendinha, São Luis, Município de Ribeirão Branco, Estado de São Paulo, Brazil.

A NEW TREEFROG FROM TAIWAN

K.-Y. Lue et al. [1995, J. Herpetology 29(3):338-345] describe *Rhacophorus arvalis* from Minhsiung, Chiayi Hsien, Taiwan, at an elevation of about 50 m. Males are 39–46 mm in body length, while females are 59–64 mm. The species is active in the late rainy season from mid-April to late August, and the males can be heard calling from lichi trees, mango trees, sugarcane, guava trees, pineapples, bamboo, and rice paddies. This species has remained undetected by science until now, even though it is found entirely in human-modified habitats associated with farming. Eggs are deposited in foam nests in temporary ponds on the forest floor, or adjacent to rice paddies.

A NEW CLOUD FOREST, VOLCANO-DWELLING TOAD

A. G. Gluesenkamp [1995, Herpetologica 51(3):268-279] describes *Osornophryne sumacoensis* from the margin of a crater lake in the cloud forests of Volcán Sumaco in central Ecuador. It is distinguished from other members of the genus by its unique ventral coloration, rugose skin and pustular dorsal ridges. Two other members of the genus occur at the type locality in Napo Province, Ecuador. All specimens were taken under leaf litter during the day. The stomachs of the holotype and paratypes contained isopods and beetles. These toads have extensive webbing and some species show a reduced phalangeal formula.

Advertisements

For sale: rats and mice—pinkies, fuzzies and adults. Quantity discounts. Please send a SASE for pricelist or call Bill Brant, *THE GOURMET RODENT*, 6115 SW 137th Avenue, Archer FL 32618, (904) 495-9024.

For sale: top quality mice, rats and Chinese dwarf hamsters. All sizes at competitive prices. Gary W. Allison, 919 Wyandotte Street, Bethlehem PA 18015, (215) 974-8975.

For sale: murine-pathogen-free rats and mice available in all sizes, live or frozen: pinkies, fuzzies, crawlers, small, medium and large. Frozen crawler mice in lots of 2000, \$.17 each. Also available, full grown hairless mice. FOB shipping point. Master Card accepted. Call (518) 537-2000 between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. or write SAS Corporation, 273 Hover Avenue, Germantown NY 12526 for prices and additional information.

For sale: high quality feeder mice. Shipped UPS Next Day Air. All mice are properly processed to insure a quality product. Fourth year of production and supply of frozen feeder mice. Prices: pinks, \$25/100; fuzzies, \$30/100; weanlings, \$35/100. Also available are 4 oz.+ rats, \$100/100. Quantity discounts available. The Mouse Factory, P.O. Box 85, Alpine TX 79831, (915) 837-7100, Ray Queen.

For sale: In stock, Flex-watt and Ultra-therm heating products. **Frozen rodents** always available. Mice: pinks–crawlers, 3/\$1; weanlings, 40¢; subadult, 50¢; adults, 65¢; large adults, 75¢. Rats: small, 85¢–\$1; medium, \$1.25–2.00; large, \$2.25–2.75; jumbo, 3/\$10. Call on quantity discounts [note: discount on orders picked up at CHS meetings]. Live rodents available at higher prices. **Available now:** newsletter/catalog—many unique/hard-to-find herp husbandry items. It's also baby snake season! Send business-size SASE for catalog, or call. Scott J. Michaels, D.V.M., Serpent City, P.O. Box 657, Island Lake IL 60042, (815) 363-0290.

For sale: commercial turtle pellets (40–56% protein; fish meal, flash-dried blood meal, feather meal based). Fed to thousands of turtles grown on commercial farms in the South for meat and pets. A complete, balanced diet for maximum growth, will not cause shell deformities, \$20 for 10 pounds postpaid. Send money order to: Terry Dillon, 30012 Hubert Jenkins Road, Bogalusa LA 70427-6952.

For sale: reptile cage disinfectant and deodorant. Kills many types of infectious disease detrimental to herps. \$3.91 for 2 oz (makes 1 gallon). Wholesale and quantity prices available. Make checks payable to Bengal Pets, Inc., 1088 Chapman Road, Jesup GA 31545, (912) 530-6384.

For sale: used mouse-breeding racks, 36 trays per rack, complete with water bottles, trays and fresh breeding stock, \$360 per rack. Very space efficient (17" × 55" × 80"h). Discounts available on multiple racks. MC/VISA accepted. The Gourmet Rodent, (904) 495-9024.

For sale: 1995 HERPETOLOGICAL DIRECTORY. Valuable information source containing private and commercial breeders, wholesalers, foreign exporters, U.S. and foreign herp societies, food sources, supplies, publications, more. . . . \$15. MC/Visa. Great Valley Serpenterium, 2379 Maggio Circle, Unit C, Lodi CA 95240, (209) 369-7737.

For sale: books. *The Snakes of Malaya* by M. W. F. Tweedie, \$40; *The Snakes of Europe* by J. W. Steward, \$35; *A Field Guide to the Snakes of South Vietnam* by S. Campden-Main, \$10; *The Care of Australian Reptiles in Captivity* by J. Weigel, \$20; *Captive Propagation and Husbandry of Reptiles and Amphibians* by Northern California Herpetological Society, \$17; *Hong Kong Amphibians and Reptiles* by Karsen et al., \$20. Postage extra. Plains Reptile, P.O. Box 5818, Fargo ND 58105, or e-mail at mbjerke@badlands.nodak.edu

For sale: herp books. Auerbach–*The Amphibians and Reptiles of Botswana* (S), \$75; Neill–*The Last of the Ruling Reptiles*, \$70; Maki–*Monograph of the Snakes of Japan*, 3 vols., \$450; Schmida–*The Cold-Blooded Australians*, \$60; Pitman–*A Guide to the Snakes of Uganda* (1974 reprint), \$250; Halstead–*Poisonous and Venomous Marine Animals*, \$300; Wager–*Frogs of South Africa*, \$35. Other titles available and I am always interested in acquiring new titles. Make check or money order to: Keith Neitman, 11415 Longbrook, Houston TX 77099

For sale: HOLIDAY GIFT SHOPPING FOR HERP LOVERS? You've come to the right place. **Herptime wall clocks** feature a beautiful, full-color herp photo printed onto the clock face, plus an accurate quartz analog movement and a glossy ABS molded frame, 9¾ × 9⅞ × 1½", includes AA battery and manufacturer's 1-year limited warranty. Choose from: A) green iguana, B) emerald tree boa, C) White's treefrog, D) poison dart frog, E) red-tailed boa, F) albino cobra, or G) gray-banded kingsnake. \$29.95 each plus \$3.95 p&h (please add \$1 p&h for each additional clock). **Also**, set of four surgical-quality stainless steel **snake sexing probes**, sexes everything from the smallest colubrids to the largest pythons. These probes are used by zoos, veterinarians and herpetoculturists around the world. Unlike the ball-tipped variety, which can be inaccurate, our straight-tipped probes are machine-drilled, then hand-crafted for precision, with a thick, balanced shaft for safe and secure handling. Set includes .022, .031, .063 and .094 gauge probes in a protective carrying case with instructions. Made in USA. Satisfaction guaranteed. \$29.95 per set plus \$1.95 p&h. Order from Living Jewels, P.O. Box 307, Hewitt NJ 07421, (914) 258-1226 phone, or (201) 728-5992 fax. MasterCard and Visa accepted. Guaranteed fast delivery. For a close-up look at all these products, see our full-color ad in the October '95 issue of *Reptiles* magazine, page 25.

For sale: large wooden reptile cage, never used, sliding glass doors, vented, 6'1 × 30"w × 20"h, \$200. Marc, (708) 597-6172.

For sale: 2' Neodesha cage, with tempered glass, new, \$30; male and female northern pine snakes, c.b. '95, high contrast, \$40; female Indonesian blue-tongue skink, c.b. '94, \$100; male and female Borneo short-tailed pythons, c.b. '95, beautiful and tame, \$125 each. (708) 361-5835.

For sale: c.b. alligator snapping turtle hatchlings, \$55 [no-cost permit required in IL]; 1½-year-old big male bearded dragon, outstanding specimen, \$175 or trade. (816) 283-3639. [MO]

For sale: nine 3-month-old bearded dragons, *Pogona vitticeps*, \$85 each. Lynn Dickason, (918) 747-7523 work or (918) 742-3449 home. [OK]

For sale: one male and one female spiny-tail monitors (*Varanus acanthurus*), proven breeders, produced four babies in 1995, beautiful, doing great, tame and calm, \$3000 or best offer, need to sell. Paul Edwards, (402) 453-6831. [NE]

For sale: 1½' male **Cuban rock iguana**, tame, inquiries welcome. Ask for Bryan, (708) 358-5068.

For sale: captive-bred Dumeril's monitors, *Varanus dumerilii*, \$330 (10% discount to herp society members, \$297). Mike, (770) 987-3933. [GA]

For sale: crickets, \$15/1000 postpaid. *Varanus acanthurus*, freckled monitor and parent breeder pairs (European zoo surplus!); two female sungazers (with papers); four c.b. *Egernia major*; two breeder pairs and a baby *Rhacodactylus leachianus*; veiled chameleons, \$65; and other c.b. lizards. Call or write for our free price list. Ray's Reptiles, P.O. Box 4732, Lincoln NE 68504-0473. Call or fax Monday – Saturday, (402) 477-1975, evenings are best.

For sale: c.h. 1995 Cape gopher snakes, *Pituophis melanoleucus vertebralis*, \$75. Pete, (602) 974-9408. [AZ]

For sale: **scarlet kingsnakes**, *Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides*, one pair, young subadults, good pinkie feeders, clean patterns and beautiful colors, \$125/pair or best offer. Rob Carmichael, (708) 615-4388, leave message on voice mail.

For sale: for Chicago area pick-up only. **Christmas sale.** C.b. '93 anerythristic (no red), hetero for snow, corn snakes, feeding very well on adult mice, were \$30, now \$25; one female brown and yellow banded, hetero for albino, California kingsnake, feeding on thawed fuzzy mice, only \$35; one male and one female c.b. '93 Kenyan sand boas, feeding on live fuzzy mice, were \$50, now \$45 each; 25" savannah monitor, friendly, feeding well on dead rodents and beef heart, was \$50, now \$45. Janice, (708) 484-7307, 10 A.M. – 10 P.M., please leave a message if I can't pick up.

Advertisements (cont'd)

For sale: still available c.b. '95 hatchling snakes. Two female Yunan rats (*Elaphe taeniura yunanensis*), \$75; six Baird's rats, \$30; one speckled king, \$15; four California kings (normal striped), \$20; four Leonis ("variable") kings (*Lampropeltis mexicana thayeri*), \$125; four Sinaloa milks, \$60; 13 Honduran milks, \$90. Inquire about group prices. Henry Cohen, 24 St. Johns Place, Buffalo NY 14201, (716) 881-6724.

For sale: 1-year old **ghost corn snake**, \$35. (708) 484-2145.

For sale: two male and one female Amazon tree boas (*Corallus e. enydris*), c.b. 10/95, bright yellow, very pretty, \$175–200 each; one male and one female Grenada tree boas (*C. e. cooki*), c.b. 8/95, nice patterns, \$100–200 each; two male and two female San Luis Potosí kings, c.b. 9/95, excellent bloodlines, nice colors, \$65–75 each; two male and two female Kenyan sand boas, c.b. '95, nice orange, \$55 each; two male and two female orange Pueblan milks, c.b. 9/95, top bloodline (Dave Bloody stock), nice orange, \$125–175 each; one male and two female Honduran milks, all heterozygous for anerythrist, male c.b. '93, females c.b. '95, \$375 each; two female spotted pythons, (*Antaresia maculosa*), c.b. 7/95, nice contrast, \$115 each; one male and one female blue-tongue skinks (*Tiliqua s. scincoides*), c.b. '95, excellent color, \$200/pair; 3½' female Queensland carpet python, c.b. '94, semi-striped, \$275; male patternless green Burmese python, c.b. '95, tame, \$175. (619) 265-7557. [San Diego]

For sale: **green tree pythons**. Another spectacular year of the finest available anywhere, c.b.b. 1995 babies are well established, having shed several times and guaranteed feeding on their own. Largest selection of distinct bloodlines, many different color phases and genetic lineages available, \$750 each, \$700/two or more. **Limited** numbers of keeper selects from new bloodlines, \$850–900 each. Other species of pythons, boas and colubrids available. Eugene Bessette, (904) 495-3075. [Archer FL]

For sale: female diamond python, \$5000; female diamond python, imp. cataracts, \$3500; male c.b. '94 gray-banded kingsnake, Blair's phase, \$200; one male and one female 16" *Lampropeltis zonata agalma*, \$650/pair; one male and two female Kenyan sand boas, possibly heterozygous male, two albino females, yearlings, Mark Bell stock, \$3500/trio; three 30" + captive-raised spiny-tailed iguanas, \$75 each. Also, used lab cages, rat and mouse, \$7–10 each. Robert and Amy Zerkle, (606) 273-9811. [Lexington KY]

For sale: **Brazilian rainbow boas**, '94 orange/brown female, 3–4', and '95 red male, both in excellent health and captive born, have records for both, \$250 each. Will not ship. Robert Sacha, (708) 636-3286. [Oak Lawn]

For sale: **c.b. boids**. Argentine boas, \$450/pair; Mexican boas, \$100; red Sumatran blood pythons, super nice, \$300; 7½' male Peruvian red-tailed boa, tame, \$450; 6' male jungle carpet python, tame, proven breeder, \$850; female NW Peruvian boa (*Boa constrictor longicauda*), 1-year-old, \$500. Also, two adult male Everglades rat snakes, surplus breeders, one heterozygous for albinism, one unusual color morph, both super orange, \$65 each; one male and one female 5–6' WC red Sumatran blood pythons, \$700/pair. Marcia, (520) 744-4211. [AZ]

For sale: 6½' female boa constrictor, proven breeder, \$200; c.b. '92 male Arizona mountain kingsnake, \$125. Jack Phillips, (708) 724-4552.

For sale: 6½' female Colombian red-tailed boa constrictor (*Boa c. constrictor*), \$250; pair of adult green basilisks, very healthy, flawless condition, \$120 each or \$220/pair. Jeff Weege, N4721 Elderwood Drive, Nashotah WI 53058, (414) 367-6146 evenings.

For sale: captive-bred snakes. Blood pythons, Burmese pythons, Kenyan sand boas, black rat snakes, bull snakes. Will deliver in Chicago metro area or ship from O'Hare Airport. Joan Moore, (312) 528-4631.

Free: to anyone willing to pick them up, one 70-gallon aquarium and one 55-gallon aquarium, may not hold water. Michael Harazim, (708) 652-1862.

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Tours: Five-day South Carolina herp and fossil tours, April–November 1995. Mini expeditions in search of 30-million-year-old turtles and crocodilians; living reptile hunts (vipers, king and rat snakes, turtles, anoles, broadhead and five-lined skinks, treefrogs and other amphibians), exotic reptile shopping and camping in a black water swamp forest. Finest Charleston hotels beginning and end of each tour. Twelve people per tour. Family plans available. \$489. For reservations call Steve Faust, (800) 894-TOUR.

Tours: Custom-designed tours to Costa Rica, Panama, Belize and Guatemala. Expeditions to fit the specialized needs of herpers, photographers, educators, writers, professionals in search of data, and travelers just interested in visiting these countries (with or without their families). From \$649. Steve Faust, (800) 894-TOUR.

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Tours: Limited bookings available for guided tours of herpetological collection sites in Nevada. Call or fax (702) 471-0240 for reservations. For a brochure send SASE to: CRC, P.O. Box 0731, Las Vegas NV 89125-0731.

Wanted: two female Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*) Lynn Dickason, (918) 747-7523 work or (918) 742-3449 home. [OK]

Wanted: looking for female Chinese three-striped box turtle, *Cuora trifasciata*, for breeding purposes. Please call Ellis Jones at (312) 545-4594.

Wanted: female *Varanus timorensis*, female *V. beccarii*, *Shinisaurus*. Mike, (770) 987-3933. [GA]

Wanted: *Uromastix acanthinurus*. (817) 613-1242 (6 – 9 P.M. Central Time). [TX]

Wanted: dealers of captive-bred reptiles and/or reptile supplies for the monthly South Florida Reptile Shows: 9 AM – 5 PM, 1/20/96, Red Carpet Inn, Ft. Lauderdale FL, (305) 987-1501 phone/fax.

Wanted: Styrofoam boxes, any size or shape so long as they're not flimsy, preferably with cardboard liners, willing to pay from \$2 to \$5. Bring to CHS meetings. Scott J. Michaels, D.V.M., Serpent City, (815) 363-0290.

Line ads in this publication are run free for CHS members — \$2 per line for nonmembers. Any ad may be refused at the discretion of the Editor. Submit ads to: Michael Dloogatch, 6048 N. Lawndale Avenue, Chicago IL 60659, (312) 588-0728 evening telephone or (312) 782-2868 fax.

Unofficial Minutes of the CHS Board Meeting, November 17, 1995

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 P.M. Board members Gary Fogel, Mike Ross and Steve Vick were absent.

Officers' Reports:

The Minutes of the October board meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted. The Midwest Herpetological Symposium was a big success.

Membership: Current membership is 1682. The board revisited the possibility of doing a membership drive. Jill Horwich and Audrey Vanderlinden were appointed to chair a Membership Drive Committee.

Committee Reports:

Legislative: Chris Lechowicz reported that the Blanding's turtle is now protected in Indiana.

Shows: The CHS has agreed to participate in the next Chicagoland Family Pet Show at Arlington Park, which will take place in March 1996. We will have the same booth space and location as we had in 1995. The Shedd Aquarium has requested that the CHS do a show at the Aquarium sometime this spring.

1995 Midwest Symposium: The Board wishes to thank Char Haguewood for her very hard work on behalf of the CHS, coordinating the Symposium.

Workshops: Workshops will resume in 1996. The first topic will be Advanced Cage and Filter Design. The second will be on skull preparation.

Grants: Jack Schoenfelder will provide a financial analysis of grant monies distributed by the CHS to date at the next board meeting. Tony Rattin will provide information regarding grant recipients and project results. John Driscoll moved and Chris Lechowicz seconded that the CHS accept Mardel Labs offer of a to sponsor a \$500 grant in herpetoculture, contingent on the only requirement of the CHS to be acknowledgement of Mardel's contribution and administration of the grant. The motion passed unanimously.

Director of Sales:

Book sales are still going well. The CHS bookstore was very successful at the Symposium. A book insert will be included in the November *Bulletin*.

Old Business:

Bulletin Board: Nicole Marrello volunteered to purchase a free-standing bulletin board to display interesting literature at general meetings. Jack Schoenfelder moved and Jill Horwich seconded that the CHS allocate \$100 to such a purchase. The motion passed with John Driscoll opposing.

Answering Machine: Brian Jones reported that the CHS now has a new, solid-state answering machine that works perfectly.

Round Table:

Jack Schoenfelder reported that the Ivy Tech Science Olympiad, at which CHS members have served as judges in previous years, is scheduled for February 15, 1996. This year there will not be a herpetology category. However, anyone interested in helping Jack out with this event, especially anyone knowing anything about trees or about minerals and fossils, please get in touch with Jack.

Joan Moore has been asked to help prepare an exhibit for the Chicago Academy of Sciences Nature Museum. Anyone who has toads native to Illinois, and who would be willing to lend them to the CAS for this exhibit, please contact Joan Moore.

Chris Lechowicz initiated a discussion regarding the possibility of the CHS hosting a Captive-Bred Animal Sale. Chris distributed a handout of suggested guidelines for such an event. The Board decided to table this discussion until a special meeting can be convened regarding this topic.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by the Recording Secretary, Jill Horwich

CHS Adoption Service

The CHS adoption service has an abundance of herps that need new homes. Common animals found on the service are green iguanas, caimans, red ears and box turtles, and common species of pythons and boas. Less common animals are placed on the service from time to time. Frequently the service receives calls from distressed owners or "finders" of animals that cannot care for the animals correctly. If you're interested in adopting one of these animals as a pet, and can care for it properly, please contact Char Haguewood at 708/209-1426, weekdays 7-9pm CST.

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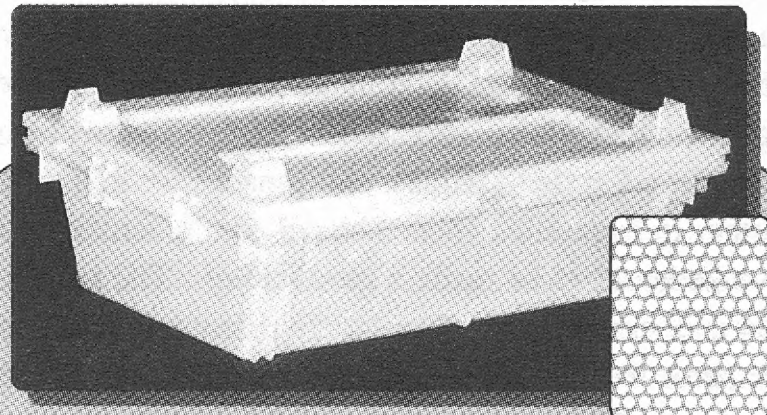
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News and Announcements

1996 CHS HERPETOLOGICAL GRANTS PROGRAM

The Chicago Herpetological Society announces the 1996 CHS Herpetological Grants Program to award financial support for herpetological research, education and conservation. Several awards of up to \$500 each will be available. Interested parties may apply for a grant in any one of the following categories:

1. Illinois Herpetology
2. Graduate Student Research in Herpetology
3. Undergraduate Research in Herpetology
4. Field Studies in Herpetology
5. Conservation
6. Captive Management, Husbandry, and Propagation

An attempt will be made to award grants in each category, but depending on the application received, not all categories may receive awards. Some categories may receive more than one award. The Grants Committee reserves the right to reassign the category under which a given proposal is submitted.

Applicants must be members of the Chicago Herpetological Society. In accepting a grant, the recipient agrees to abide by all state and federal laws, to submit a written summary of the project for publication in the *CHS Bulletin*, and to acknowledge the Chicago Herpetological Society in any publications that result from the subsidized research. Recipients are encouraged to submit their work as an article for the *CHS Bulletin*, or to present a program at a CHS meeting.

Applications should include the following:

1. Statement of the objectives of the proposal.
2. Description of materials and methods.
3. Complete budget, not to exceed \$500.
4. Brief resumé of the applicant, if an individual. If the applicant is an organization, background information on that organization should be included.
5. A completion date for the project.

Applications must be typed, double spaced, and submitted in duplicate. Applications should be kept brief and simple, and proposals longer than three to five pages are discouraged. All applications must be received by 1 March 1996, and awards will be announced by 1 April 1996.

It is the goal of the Grants Committee to award grants to a variety of applicants; enthusiastic amateurs will receive equal consideration with professional herpetologists and graduate students. Topics which might translate into quality *CHS Bulletin* articles or monthly meeting programs are favored, though not requisite.

Submit applications or questions to: Anthony J. Rattin, CHS Grants Committee Chairman, Department 46R, Building AP9, Pharmaceutical Products Division, Abbott Laboratories, 100 Abbott Park Road, Abbott Park, IL 60064-3500.

GRANTS FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY RESEARCH IN MINNESOTA

The Minnesota Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program is soliciting proposals for projects to be conducted during the 1996 and/or 1997 field seasons (or longer). Proposals should be for work contributing to the conservation and management of nongame wildlife (vertebrate or invertebrate), native plants, and plant communities in Minnesota. High priority will be given to projects focusing on specified topic areas, and on state endangered, threatened, or special concern species and rare natural communities. Awards average \$3000 per year, but requests up to \$10000 per year will be considered. The deadline for submitting proposals is January 19, 1996. Decisions will be announced no later than March 1, 1996. For program guidelines, proposal format, list of priority topic areas, E&T species list, and other information, please contact: Richard J. Baker, Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Box 7, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4007; phone: (612) 297-3764; fax: (612) 297-4961; e-mail: richard.baker@dnr.state.mn.us. This program is supported by contributions to the Minnesota Nongame Wildlife Tax Checkoff, Minnesota State Parks Nature Store sales, and the Minnesota Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

PHONE NUMBER FOR INFO ON THE INTERNATIONAL HYLID SOCIETY

In last month's announcement on the formation of the International Hylid Society, the number to call for more information was off by one digit. The correct instructions are to call William Brown at (317) 742-5331.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Chicago Herpetological Society will be held at 7:30 P.M., Wednesday, December 27, at the Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive, in Chicago. Robert Henderson, Curator of Herpetology at the Milwaukee Public Museum will speak on New World boas.

On January 31 our speakers will be Special Agent David Kirkby from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Officer Sheila O'Connor from the Illinois Department of Conservation. They will provide "An Update on Reptile and Amphibian Laws." Topics covered will include permits, CITES, the federal Endangered Species Act, the Lacey Act, and Illinois herp laws and protected species. The speakers will be prepared to answer questions from the audience.

We are required to use the entrance on the west side of the museum. We have permission to use the staff parking lot to the west of the museum. Entrance to this lot is from McFetridge Drive, the wide street just to the south, between the museum and Soldier Field. There is also free parking available in the lot to the north of the museum. The #146 CTA bus goes directly to the museum. Unfortunately, it does not operate past 9:00 P.M. However, after the program anyone needing a ride to a CTA stop will have no trouble finding one—just ask any board member.

Turtle Club

The Chicago Turtle Club will meet Sunday, December 17, 1:00–3:30 P.M., at the North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski, in Chicago.

ELECTION OUTCOME

As a result of the elections held November 29, 1995, the following officers and members-at-large will serve on the 1996 CHS Board of Directors.

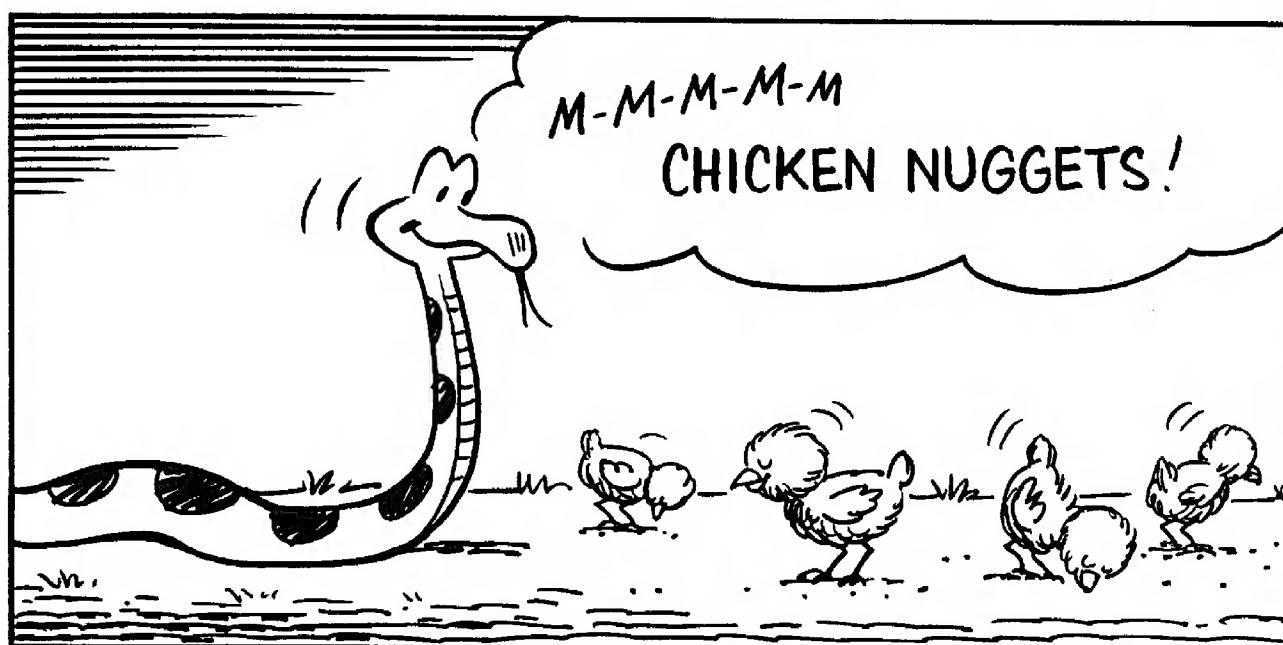
President:	Anthony Rattin	Membership Secretary:	John Driscoll
Vice-president:	Chris Lechowicz	Sergeant-at-arms:	Art Nohlberg
Treasurer:	Gary Fogel	Members-at-large:	Gary Kostkas
Recording Secretary:	Audrey Vanderlinden		Jack Schoenfelder
Corresponding Secretary:	Brian Jones		Jenny Vollman
Publications Secretary:	Mike Dloogatch		

In addition, as immediate past president, Marcia Rybak will also serve on the board of directors.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Each year the Chicago Herpetological Society bestows awards upon a few select members in recognition of their service to the organization. At the November 29 meeting three awards were presented. **Ron and Dotty Humbert** received the CHS Lifetime Service Award. This special award is given only infrequently to a person or persons chosen by the Awards Committee, subject to the approval of the president. It is given in recognition of many years of exceptional service to the CHS. **Jenny Vollman** received the CHS Merit Award. This honor is given each year to one or more individuals selected by the Awards Committee for outstanding service. **Char Haguewood** received the Presidential Service Award, presented each year to a person selected by the president as having been particularly helpful to the president or to the CHS Board.

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